The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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## EXPENSE OF FAMILY DOUBLED SINCE 1900

The United States bureau of labor statistics reports that a wage of $1,500 a year will only provide "the minimum standard of comfort."

In other words, this governmental agency declares that if a worker does not receive $5 a day for 300 working days in the year he does not support a family in the most restricted kind of comfort.

In 24 principal American cities "the lowest annual wage should be $1,652.

Washington, April 20.—The cost of maintaining a family in this country has doubled since 1900, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics. Figures that make public show that the average cost in 1900 was $763. During 1917 the cost of the same standard of living was $1,552, alone in 1917 cost only $53 less than all items combined in 1900. $327 represented the expenditure for food, the average working man's family in 1900. In 1911 this had risen to $460 and in 1917 it cost $716. Rent had advanced 53 per cent. Clothing doubled, rising from $118 to $236, and fuel and lighting show a similar advance, rising from $46 to $92. The only advance in all these items occurred between 1914 and 1917. The 1917 figures, the bureau says, are already outdated because of subsequent advances. The minimum standard of comfort today requires a wage of $1,652 or $5.50 a day per year. The average of 24 American cities is that the minimum amount necessary for a reasonable standard of health and comfort in those 24 principal American cities in 1917 was $1,652 which $93 is spent for food. Investigation by the department of health in New York City places the figure for that city at $1,682.

The above figures do not include increases in the cost of such things as amusements, charity, insurance, taxes, books, newspapers or expenses incident to sickness and death.

## U. S. LABOR STANDARDS IS DEMOCRACY'S TEST

Washington, April 20.—While urging the maintenance of American standards of labor, Assistant Secretary of Labor Post, in a speech in this city, said:

"What are American standards of labor? Let us put the question to a reasonable test by first asking ourselves, what is America? Is it not a democratic country—a country existing in democracy and fighting for democracy and for the right to keep democracy? Democracy is the democratic test then is the test to which we must bring the question of labor standards and all else. In other words, when we deal with labor, we deal with a human factor, and every unit in this great factor is entitled to democratic consideration—to the consideration which the Declaration of Independence assures him. Labor is vastly more vital than the mere fact of labor in a business man's ledger. Labor means mankind at work making a living for mankind.

"That is why I cast a vote of 34 to 25, struck out all reference to labor's right to strike, no matter how great its provocation, in the Caminetti amendment was accepted by the senate.

Because of these differences the bill has a reference to labor which I agreed to eliminate the Cannon and Lunn amendments, which has been accepted by the house and senate.

As matters now stand, the bill is in the shape it was originally intended—to punish those who conspire to destroy or injure any material necessary for the production of the war.

The difference between a conspiracy herein defined and workers forced on to the job under miserable conditions is the intent to injure the government.

Although every labor legislation is defeated at this time, it must not be understood that the conscriptionists have attained their purpose. Labor will renew the fight at the first opportunity, while hoping for crushing a public opinion against trade unions that some court will construe the phrase "material necessary for war" as intended to include workers on strike.

If the unions permit conscriptionists to develop the public opinion the latters' fight is made easier.

In the senate the Lunn amendment was vigorously defended by Senators Hollis and others, who insisted that the conscriptionists were injecting a matter entirely foreign to the purpose of the bill, and that if the senate is to pass on the question of the right to strike, it should be presented in the open, where a fair fight can be made, rather than confuse it with other issues.

In answer to the claim that there is no need now to strike because of the government's mediation and arbitration machinery, Senator Pittman said:

"How long would the employee's anxious for mediation if these men could not quit? Why is it that the employers today are willing to meet the laborers before a mediation board? It is because the men can quit. Take away from the employee the power to quit and you will find every employer in the country refusing to arbitrate the question of conditions or of wages. That must be apparent to everyone. There is no force in mediation, but it is not compulsory. "Take away from labor the right to quit and what protection have they against starvation wages and intolerable conditions? What control do you provide over the employer? there any punishment for the imposition of starvation wages and deathdealing conditions?"

"You are conscripting labor. Are you ready to conscript the employer? If you are ready to conscript both of them, but I am not ready to conscript the employer and not conscript the employer. I am not willing to say to the laborer, 'If you refuse to work you will injure the government, and you will be guilty of a crime,' and not say to the employer, 'If you do not pay these men living wages and do not let them live under conditions that they can live under you will be guilty of a crime.' I do not believe in having an act that works on one side of the fence and not on another class of people."

## SOLDIER GREETS LABOR.

Tacoma, Wash., April 20.—"Comrades of the great army of labor," was the term used by Major General Frank K. Lunsford, United States army, in an address to ship yard workers at a flag raising service.

"I am proud to be numbered comrades. You have heard of the German gun that fires 75 miles, but every blow you strike will be fired in the battle line and that is 4,000 miles away," he said.

The army officer declared that labor will benefit immensely as a result of the war, and that it is the patriotic duty to do all they can for democracy in its struggle against autocracy.

## CONSCRIPT DOLLARS AT WELL AS WORKERS

Washington, April 20.—In a speech before a national organization platform lecturers, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison took the argument of labor conscriptionists and applied it to themselves. He declared that if it is necessary for the nation to live, organized workers will accept the government's dictum that everything shall be pressed into the common lot, with every citizen placed on subsistence rations.

"The trade union movement opposes the conscription of labor unless wealth is likewise conscripted," he said.

"The claim that labor should be conscripted on the same theory that the country drafts its citizens into military purposes is not a correct comparison. The government conscripts its citizens for service, the employer would conscript for exploitation.

"Courts have repeatedly drawn a sharp line between civilian and military duty, and while in theory no one can deny the government's right to draft citizens for any great rights, less at labor would be called upon to surrender its right of freedom.

"The trade union movement demands that urge conscription of labor that it will be applied to capital. If you would do it will be the first to accept the government's dictum—if that time ever comes—that every ounce of man power and every dollar and other evidence of wealth must be placed on the common lot with every citizen on soldier's rations that the nation may need.

"We notify these employers and their spokesmen in the United States that labor is not going to be the way to establish principles of democracy in the United States by conscripting labor in the industrial districts and the regulations in the public service reserve," he said. "It will all amount to the same thing if they only had the peaces in which to put the men.

"Since conscription has been made in putting the plants in already congested and crowded industrial districts, the problem of the proper supply ought to be distributed more than they are distributed, because these conditions are already overcrowded and all those things which make for efficiency and the production of more workers might be found more adequate than they are in particularly congested and overcrowded places as we find them today.

"But we can not say that the feet of one who has suffered in the bottom of the ocean is because labor has not been loyal, or because the workers have not been willing and willfull to work. That is not the cause."

## PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Boston, April 20.—The Master Painters' association has granted a flat increase rate of its organized employes, and a two-weeks' strike has been averted. The new scale calls for $6 a day for house painters and $5.60 for decorators. The strike did not affect a large number of painters unaffiliated with the association.

Springfield, Ill., April 20.—As the result of a two-weeks' strike Painters' Local No. 90 has raised wages $1.50 cents an hour, or from 50 to 62½ cents.

Lincoln, Ill., April 20.—Painters' Union No. 90 has raised wages to meet the high cost of living since contractors have accepted a new wage scale calling for 62½ cents an hour or 65¢ cents an hour, or $1 a day.

Seattle, April 20.—Sign Writers' union No. 25, affiliated with the Brotherhood of Painters, has raised wages a day without a strike. Bosses agreed that H. C. of L. must be reckoned with.

## WOULD STABILIZE WAGES.

Washington, April 20.—The department of labor and the United States shipping board are attempting to work out a plan whereby wages will be regulated to compensate for the increased cost of living.

The plan is to be accepted by some British manufacturers, especially in the textile industries, Belgium and other cities in England an agreement has been effected by employers and workers whereby increases are made to fluctuate in accordance with increases on the cost of living prescribed by a board, by the employment of new and inexperienced men to replace skilled miners who have been drafted into the munitions factories and who have enlisted in the army and navy. This has given rise to what "eternal vigilance is the price that must be paid to prevent accidents at a minimum. The least relaxation of safety measures, inspection and supervision, a temporary slackening of discipline in industry or any unusual demand, as for coal, immediately results in higher accident rates, as is shown by the experience of 1914."

## WANT HEALTH PROTECTED.

New York, April 20.—Trade unionists in the city are protesting against the plan of municipal authorities to do away with six hundred beds of the department of health.

At a labor sanitation conference, representing fifty-seven central bodies, it was announced that organized labor is in favor of any movement that will tend to decrease the efficiency of the city department of health, but that it is opposed to any move that the union movement oppose any removal of bureau heads unless it is shown that greater efficiency will result.

## POLISHERS RAISE WAGES.

Piqua, Ohio, April 20.—Metal Polishers' union No. 5 has secured a new agreement with the Favorite Stove and Range company. The men are permitted to work on the company's time and wages are increased 4½ cents an hour.

## CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

San Antonio, Tex., April 20.—Street car men have secured an increase in wages from 25 to 27½ cents an hour.

## EDUCATION BILL PASSED.

Washington, April 20.—The sedition bill passed the senate without a record vote and was sent to a conference between the senate and house because of differences which it is believed that can be quickly adjusted.

Penalties of 20 years' imprisonment and $10,000 fine are provided for language or acts of disloyalty or obstruction of the army draft or Liberty loans.

Though modified to meet the objections of those who claimed the original draft would curb legitimate freedom of speech, the bill retains the broad inclusion of words or acts which "support or favor the cause of the German empire or its allies or oppose the cause of the United States."

It also would punish wilful and disloyal "propaganda" and "unpatriotic, disloyal or abusive" language about the American form of government, constitution, army or navy uniform or other uniform and wilful utterances designed to curtail production of essential war materials.

The postmaster general is empowered to refuse the mails to letters that are intended to violate this act and to return mail to the sender with the words "Failed to this section" undeliverable under espionage act" plainly written or stamped on the outside.

It is provided that nothing in this act shall be construed as limiting the liberty or impairing the right of any individual to publish or speak what is true, with good motives and for justifiable ends."

## DEMOCRACY AND THE LABEL.

Washington, April 20.—Under the above caption, Secretary John Manning, of the A. F. of L. union label trades department, writes:

"So much has been said and written about the beneficial features of the union label it would seem that there is little else to be said, yet how many realize that it is representative of the great principle of democracy for which our country has unsheathed the sword?

"Democracy is a form of government in which the supreme power is retained and directly exercised by the people, but how few there are who see in this definition a complete description of the fundamentals of the union label.

"Through the democracy of the union label the workers have the power to regulate their hours of labor, to maintain a living wage, to prohibit unsanitary work conditions, to safeguard against the loss of life or limb, to withstand unscrupulous competition through a lower wage because of sex differences."

## GUNMEN RULE W. VA.

Charleston, W. Va., April 20.—"While democracy is being preached in every pulpit, theater and hall, and from every platform in West Virginia," says the West Virginia Federationist, "the spirit of the Ku Klux Klan is allowed to exist in the coal fields presided over by some of our greatest exponents of democracy.

"The notorious 'guard system' or gun man rule that has been a blot on the state of West Virginia for many years is still in full swing in the Logan, Fairmont, Norfolk & Western and many sections of the New River coal fields where these things, recognized as the very worst form of serfdom at the behest of their masters, rule with an iron hand and supersede the regularly elected officers of the people."

As a protest against these gunmen West Virginia unionists are circulating a petition of 100,000 names to present to President Wilson.

## IDLE LABOR NOW REPORTED.

Washington, April 20.—In view of the sentiment created by "profiteering" claimants, if a person insisted that there was an unemployed problem in many large cities, he would be looked on with suspicion. But that statement has been made by the United States department of labor, which says that reports received up to April 6 show that conditions in the building trades are "still serious." Only five cities show a shortage and 24 show a surplus of labor. Many of the larger cities, including Chicago, Indianapolis, Minneapolis and Los Angeles show "decrease as a serious unemployment."

## LENNON AND SWEENEY WIN.

Bloomington, Ill., April 20.—John B. Lennon, former treasurer of the A. F. of L., has been elected general treasurer of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America by a referendum vote.

General Secretary Sweeney, who was defeated by the latter, has been elected secretary.

## PREDICTS LONG WAR.

Boston, April 20.—In an address to Harvard university students, Gen. Leonard Wood, of the United States army, said:

"This is going to be a long, hard fight. We can win, and we will win, but it means everybody behind the government, every citizen doing his duty, every citizen and spiritual force

## *Workers Compelled To Strike Are Not Disloyal*

## COMPERS PLEADS FOR MEDIATION METHODS IN SETTLEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

While the bill for the protection of war material and war transportation facilities was being considered by conferees of the house and senate, President Gompers expressed the hope to Senator Overman, one of the conferees, that labor's right to cease work would not be denied. The senate had declared for this denial by retaining the Lunn amendment, which included eliminating the Cannon amendment, which declared, in effect, that a strike was not a conspiracy to injure the government.

In his letter President Gompers said:

"The elimination of section 4 (Lunn amendment) and the retention of the Cannon amendment, would be a direct challenge to labor. Such a policy would be unjustifiable and discriminatory against human beings and the granting of power and special privileges to private employers over their employees, and would be so interpreted by the great mass of the workers of our country.

"No one disputes the fact that the workers generally of our country and the American Federation of Labor have given indispensable service and the failure of the congress to retain this amendment would greatly discourage them and this reaction among the wage workers of our country and would nullify all the efforts made by the organized labor movement. A challenge to their character and their patriotic co-operative spirit of the workmen of our country, and thus retard rather than accelerate our necessary industrial activities in the conduct of a successful war.

"Other forms of their inherent and constitutional rights can have no other effect than to create in an intensified form the spirit engendered and developed by those who covertly discredit the services of this war result in failure. It is my earnest hope that no legislation will be enacted that will retard the successful prosecution of the undertaking in which we are engaged and I sincerely trust that in the final determination of this bill either it will remain in the form report by the conferees, or that both the Cannon amendment and section 3 be stricken from it."

The conferees have rejected the suggestion of President Gompers and they eliminated both disputed amendments. This action has been indorsed by both the house and senate. Now the bill only applies to strike on industries "material" to the government in its prosecution of the war. This attempt at malice distinguishes it from a strike to improve conditions.

## CO-OP. FUND APPEAL ISSUED BY A. F. OF L.

Washington, April 20.—In a letter to all national and international unions, state federations of labor and President Gompers calls attention to the A. F. of L. Buffalo convention's action on co-operation.

The plan provides "that a qualified trade unionist co-operator be appointed by the president of the A. F. of L. to serve one year as lecturer and adviser on the practical work of Rochdale co-operation."

The appointee shall have office rooms in the A. F. of L. building which shall be the center of information, by correspondence and otherwise, for trade unionists and local trade localities to assist in the formation and upbuilding of this movement.

The convention recommended that every local trade union under the jurisdiction of the A. F. of L. be requested to contribute $1 in order to finance this plan.

"Men are being constantly discharged and discriminated against for joining labor unions," he says, "and the A. F. of L. should be active in meetings. Please do your best to send government representative here to settle matters at once. It is useless to remain at work and resist the aggressive policy of persecution by the officials of members of organized labor is unbearable. Hundreds storming at committee here today in protest meetings."

## MORE TROUBLE FOR LOAFERS

Albany, N. Y., April 20.—Two anti-loafers' bills have been passed by the state legislature and are now before Governor Whitman for signature. The first provides that persons "without visible means of support" are guilty of a misdemeanor and it is stated he will sign the most drastic. Senator Robinson and Assemblyman Crowe are the authors of this legislation.

The Crowe bill provides that any person, firm or corporation from stocks or bonds, or from property not operated by labor, may be levied upon such person."

Trade unionists are interested in this legislation as it is a possible effect on strikes. In West Virginia a similar law has been used by coal operators against striking miners, while in New Jersey the must-work law enforcement officers temporarily suspend work. Maryland is the fourth state that has passed this legislation. No reference is made to strikers as loafers, but the two largest Baltimore industries are included and excluded from the operation of the law.

## HUGE PAPER TRUST PROFITS.

New York, April 20.—While newspapers—even the big ones—are complaining of the cost of new print, the International Paper company reports a profit last year of $8,190,000, a total of $9,090,000 over the year 1916. President Watson says the conditions were "moderate," in view of the amount of capital invested.

The profit on every print was about $1.24 a ton, "a moderate and really unsafe return, considering the dangers and liabilities now existing because of war conditions," and that "many of the statements made in the absurdity" of the statements made in congress and elsewhere on the profits of the company is ridiculous.

Mr. Dodge devotes much space in defending profits that increased nearly 90 per cent over last year.

## STOVE MOUNTERS GAIN.

Kokomo, Ind., April 20.—After a four-weeks' strike organized stove workers employed by the Stove Plate and Range company have increased wages 50 cents a day for day work and 3½ per cent on piece work.

## MINERS MAKE RECORD.

Indianapolis, April 20.—The books of Secretary Green show that for the month of March there were paid-up members of the United Mine Workers were 603,922. This is the largest membership in the history of that organization.

## RAISE WAGES $4 A WEEK.

Baltimore, April 20.—Shoemakers employed by the Baltimore Shoe Manufacturing company have been granted an increase in wages of $4 a week.

## TO ORGANIZE STEEL MILLS.

Chicago, April 20.—The Chicago federation of labor has elected an executive council of the American Federation of Labor to call a conference of representatives equipped with full power to act, of all the international unions interested in the steel industry, and all of the city central bodies in the steel districts, to the end that these organizations may be enlisted into one mighty and united drive to organize the steel plants of America."

Washington, April 20.—The Bethlehem Steel company has been accused inciting unrest among its employes, according to representatives of organized labor here, who called at the A. F. of L. headquarters. A. F. of L. Organizer Duffy has made repeated charges against the Bethlehem officials. Assistant Secretary Morrison telegraphed A. F. of L. Secretary Duncan, at Bethlehem, Pa., that the company has increased the speed of machinery 10 hours and 25 minutes and refuses to pay overtime after eight hours.

"Men are being constantly discharged and discriminated against for joining labor unions," he says, "and the A. F. of L. should be active in meetings. Please do your best to send government representative here to settle matters at once. It is useless to remain at work and resist the aggressive policy of persecution by the officials of members of organized labor is unbearable. Hundreds storming at committee here today in protest meetings."

## HOW TO "END" STRIKES.

Chicago, April 20.—The fight of the Plano Molding Machine company against the Lyon & Healy company, which refuses living wages, has been taken up by the Chicago federation of labor.

Last October these workers requested that wages be increased 15 per cent over the rates of from 27 cents an hour and that the contract system be abolished. As a reply, the company discharged 19 employes. The Machinists' union of America, the auxiliary engineers, firemen, piano movers and painters were locked out because they refused to work with strikebreakers.

The company then asked for an injunction against the officials. Judge A. Smith, who granted the request issued a sweeping order, prohibiting picketing. Later Williams of the Machinists' union telegraphed A. F. of L. Secretary Duncan, at Bethlehem, Pa., that the company has increased the speed of machinery 10 hours and 25 minutes and refuses to pay overtime after eight hours.

"The picketing in this case was of a comparatively mild and peaceful kind of picketing, and was carried on to the advice of Mr. Schmidt, counsel for the defendant; but, nevertheless, it is picketing, and the making of pickets, two and two, at certain hours of the day, and is closed to other meetings. Please do your best to send government representative here to settle matters at once. It is useless to remain at work and resist the aggressive policy of persecution by the officials of members of organized labor is unbearable. Hundreds storming at committee here today in protest meetings."

Under this reasoning the court held six unionists guilty of contempt of court. Judge Smith sentenced them at the time to pronounce sentence, but stated that "when the time comes I think I shall fine President Dold (of the Piano and Organ Workers' union) and each commit him to jail for 30 days; the others I think, I will fine when it comes to proper time, $500 each."

The company has refused mediation offers of the United States department of labor and the Illinois state industrial board. Gun men and thugs are employed.

## CARPENTERS ARE UNITING.

Indianapolis, April 20.—General Secretary Frank Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports that the following charters have been recently issued:

Slidell, La. (ship carpenters and caulkers); Lewis, Del. (ship carpenters); Pa. (millmen); Slidwell, La. (colored ship carpenters and caulkers); Lewis-ville, Ill.; Stratford, Ontario; Everett, Wash. (shipwrights); Anderson, S. C.; Pidcher, Okla.; New Ulm, Minn.; East Hampton, Long Island, N. Y.; Lindsay, Ontario; Charlestown, Ind.; Williamsport, Pa. (millmen); Wetetka, Okla.; Anacortes, Wash. (shipwrights, joiners, boat builders and millmen); Madisonville, La. (ship joiners and caulkers); Madisonville, La. (cotton mill workers); Mobile, (ship scrubbers); Wolf Point, Mont.; Pevely, Mo.; Albany, Ore. (millmen); Carlsbad, N. M.; Petersburg, Va. (colored); Leadwood, Mo.; Sacramento, Cal.; Lorain, Ohio (ship carpenters, joiners and caulkers); Sudbury, Ontario; Fredericktown, Mo.; Newport, Ark.; Coppenish, Wash.

## SAME ANTI-UNION CROWD.

Chicago, April 20.—Delegates to the Chicago federation of labor cheered President Frank Morrison when he finished reading the award of Federal Judge Alschuler in the packing house controversies. Judge Alschuler branded the delegates that while the stock yard employes had forced arbitration of the controversies, boycotted, and had secured the eight-hour day, equal pay for men and women, the right of collective bargaining, one day rest in seven, and the seniority rule, that this same body of employes knew that the packers have changed their attitude toward organized labor.

"The packers can not change his spots," said Fitzpatrick.

## TEST CHILD LABOR LAW.

Washington, April 20.—The United States supreme court will hear arguments in a case that involves the constitutionality of the federal child labor law, which makes interstate shipment to commodities made in whole or in part by children under 14 years of age. The case started in North Carolina, where cotton mill owners are objecting to this restriction. The federal department of justice is defending the law.

## BIG STEAMSHIP EARNINGS.

Chicago, April 20.—Steamships on the great lakes shared in the general prosperity of the ship industry last year, according to the annual statistical statement of the Interlake Steamship company, the company's annual report showing that the net earnings of the company's fleet of 49 vessels for the season of navigation last year were $3,000,000.

## ANOTHER "FRAME-UP" TO CONVICT MOONEY

San Francisco, April 20.—With the ground slipping from under them, Prosecutor Fickert's police officials now announce that they have discovered another attempt by Fickert to railroad Thomas Mooney to the gallows.

It is alleged that while Israel Weinberg was confined in jail he was approached by a man who assured him if he would testify in court that he drove Mooney down Van Ness avenue in the direction of bomb explosion, that freedom and a sum of $15,000 or $20,000 awaited him.

Weinberg was told that "they will get Mooney in the end," he was asked, "What will become of your wife and son?"

Weinberg during this incident Weinberg said the messenger told him that Fickert told me (the messenger) to tell you that he is in charges of murder against you, and that he will be sent to prison for it, so that even if you are innocent you will be kept in jail 10 years on these charges.

"It's easy for you, I tell you," continued the messenger. "All you have to say is that you drove (the other defendants) down there in your jitney."

Weinberg says he recalls every incident of this visit because that week "had been a hard week for me."

"Judge Dunne," he continued, "was trying me for one of my attorney did not proceed with the case that he would be sent to jail; it was right after Mooney's conviction. I had no money to carry on a defense and my wife was sick and suffering on a nervous breakdown.

"She had said to me: 'Israel, you have to help Tom Mooney. Tom Mooney is to hang, and they will hang you, too.' I was depressed and worried. I had no hope after of a large sum of money, freedom and a comparatively easy life. On reflection, which was to allow myself to be killed by the state rather than gain any money by aiding in a lying plot to kill the others."

## WAR LABOR BOARD MEETS.

Washington, April 20.—The national war labor board, consisting of five representatives from industry, five employers and ex-President Taft and Frank P. Walsh, representing the public, held its first meeting this week and mapped out a plan of organization. Messrs. Taft and Walsh will act as chairman alternate meetings.

No dispute will be heard where the parties have not first agreed to their case to mediation and arbitration already provided by the government. The board at present consists of the same persons who formulated the national war labor board for the trade unionists are: International Presidents Hayes, of the miners; Duncan, of the metal trades; Johnston of the machinists, Rickert of the garment workers, and Victor Gauner, second vice president of the machinists. President Johnston is now in Englind as a member of the "American Federation of Labor Mission," and his place on the labor board is temporarily filled by Harvey Spiegel, general board member of the International Association of Machinists.

## FOUNDRY EMPLOYES ACTIVE.

Washington, April 20.—President Lake, of the International Brotherhood of Foundry Employes, who is in this city on matters of interest to his organization, has issued to the Ludlow Valve Manufacturing company of Troy, N. Y., which employed a force of 200 foundry employes, who were on strike two weeks, a demand for $6 to $7 per day. President Lake also reports that active bonds have been formed in Saratoga Springs and Dunkirk, N. Y.

## R. R. LABORERS GAIN.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 20.—The Winnipeg Joint Trade Council has signed the first agreement with the Maintenance-of-Way Employes' union. The new rates are $3.50 a day for men and $2.50 for day laborers.

## PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 20.—Plumbers' union No. 72 has secured a